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On with the show

Certain to rise on Annie
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Animal lover

Local student to help animals in Thailand
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Camp divided

Region's motion to buy property rejected
 Page 5

Pinch at pumps

Gas prices worry councillor
 Page 23

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INPORT NEWS

SERVING PORT COLBORNE • WAINFLEET • SHERKSTON • LOWBANKS • ISSUE NO. 7 VOLUME 16

For news updated daily see www.inportnews.ca

■ **BUDGET:** One more meeting

■ **PORT CARES:** Executive director says organization still growing

Wainfleet facing 3.56% tax increase

DAVE JOHNSON
 InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — It didn't take long for township council to bring a proposed 3.06% tax increase down to 3.56% after a series of cuts during a 2012 budget meeting.

Council met to go over the figures with treasurer Robyn Mader, who had a short presentation. Township staff were on hand to answer any questions alderman and Mayor April Jeffs had about the \$4.42M budget, which was up \$367,685 from 2011.

It was Jeffs who made a motion for the first cut from the budget, which if it had stayed the same would have meant an increase of \$107.09 on a household with an average assessment of \$219,652. But with the changes made, that increase dropped \$42.17.

see **BUDGET** | page 2

'Passion' for helping others



ALLAN BENNER
 InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — It was the mid-1980s when Lynda Reinhart packed up her family of three children, left behind her hometown of Hamilton and moved to Bolivia.

She spend the next four years tutoring children in the South American country, working as a community development volunteer.

"I really enjoyed that. I realized the potential of helping people learn," she recalled.

see **REINHART** | page 2

ALLAN BENNER Staff Photo

Port Cares executive director Lynda Reinhart has seen many changes at the agency since she started her career there in 1989, and the changes are still happening. The Charlotte St. offices are being expanded to allow the organization to better meet the diverse needs of the community it serves.

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■ REINHART

Port Cares continually adding space, programs

FROM PAGE 1

Reinhart returned to Canada in 1989 and soon after moving to Port Colborne, she started looking for a way to continue to use her training in literacy education to help people there. She called Port Cares to see if it had any volunteer positions in literacy services.

Instead, the agency that was formed a few years earlier offered her a part-time contract position working with its pre-employment program for women.

Reinhart found that work rewarding, too. Her literacy training came in handy while she helped prepare women for the workplace. She said many of the women who used the preemployment program did not have their high school diplomas.

"It was that passion" to help people get the services they needed that led Port Cares to bring a Literacy Council to Port Colborne, an initiative that grew into the Port Cares Learning Centre.

Meanwhile, the pre-employment program also

grew until it eventually took over the employment service programs that had previously been offered by Human Resources Development Canada. Reinhart managed Port Cares employment services department until about seven years ago when she was promoted to executive director.



Reinhart

Now that program has become a full-service employment centre, and

Port Cares is continuing to increase its services to the community. "There will be more services to those who are looking for work," she said.

It's one of many changes that have occurred at the agency since it first opened its doors.

"When Port Cares first started, one of the goals that they set out in their charter

was to look at gaps in community services," Reinhart said.

In the nearly 23 years she's spent working with Port Cares, Reinhart said one of the most gratifying parts of the job has been identifying those gaps, then bringing services to the city to fill them. Even when Port Cares couldn't provide services itself, the agency formed partnerships with organizations that could fill those needs.

"That's what we did and that's what I think has really been the secret," she said. "And it takes a long time to build and nurture those relationships with other agencies and to convince them to come to Port."

She said by partnering with agencies, including Canadian Mental Health, Pathstones Mental Health (formerly Niagara Child and Youth Services), local school boards, Niagara College, Ontario Youth Services and the Niagara Region's community services department among others, Port Colborne and area residents have a wide

variety of programs from which to choose.

"We have the Health Bus, the Toy Mobile, the region's dental bus. All of these groups come throughout the course of a month, and people coming here are able to access them and they know where to go."

There will be more services to those who are looking for work."

Port Cares executive director
Lynda Reinhart

While the partnerships have allowed Port Cares to bring a diverse collection of services to Port Colborne, Reinhart said it's really all part of the same continuum, "because you can't really move along the continuum without all the pieces being in place."

The need for the services Port Cares provides continues to grow, and the agency

is growing to meet that need. Port Cares has just recently completed the renovations of its Reach Out Centre in the city's east side, a project made possible as a result of Port Cares' first capital campaign.

"It was, to us, quite daunting to have this capital campaign," she said, referring to the efforts to raise \$335,000 to help pay for the project to allow the facility to accommodate the thousands of visitors every year.

Reinhart said an official opening for the facility will be held this spring.

Meanwhile, Port Cares has also taken over operation of the community food bank.

Originally, she said only about 22 "members" visited the food bank every month. Now, she said more than 50 people are using it.

"The numbers are increasing and we're seeing more seniors coming in," she said.

An additional construction project is now underway to merge two side-by-side buildings at the corner of Charlotte and Catherine Sts., further adding to the space available

to assist the people of the Port Colborne and area.

"The building is almost finished. We expect to move in within a week," she said.

"It will have a new entrance, a new resource centre for employment services, a large group meeting room — I think it will hold about 40 people. This will give us more space."

Looking back over the growth of Port Cares over the decades she's been a part of the organization, Reinhart said the work she did long ago in Bolivia helped her along the way.

"People there face many of the same struggles as we do," she said.

"People face a lot of the same barriers. It doesn't matter where you are, whether it's stable housing, having food security and education," she said.

During her time in Bolivia, she said she learned to nurture partnerships, pointing out that a big part of the success of Port Cares is a result of the partnerships it has formed.

■ BUDGET

Infrastructure improvements looming

FROM PAGE 1

Before the mayor made her motion for the first cut, Madere explained why the proposed tax increase was so high.

"We've had an assessment growth of almost zero, an inflation rate of 2.3% ... low reserve levels and aging infrastructure," she said.

Other changes for 2012 include a need for infrastructure improvements: roads, bridges, capital equipment and arena renovations/renov.

Positive aspects of the budget included no deficit from previous years, low debt level and a decrease in insurance premiums, Madere said. Once she was done, alderman then started to talk about what they wanted to see cut or what could be cut from the budget.

Over the second year in a row, a road needs study filed

We've had an assessment growth of almost zero, an inflation rate of 2.3% ... low reserve levels and aging infrastructure."

Wainfleet treasurer Robyn Madere

to make it through the process. The mayor didn't think the \$35,000 expenditure was necessary given the fact that council saw what the township's roads were like during a tour late last year.

Director of operations Greg Wuisman told council that not a week goes by without someone calling his office asking why their road isn't paved or when it will be paved. Residents have even appeared before council to talk about roads, he added.

"A study looks at a road's condition, traffic patterns, traffic flow, whether it's an arterial road or a major road serving residents ... it puts all the data

together and prioritizes which road should be done first," Wuisman said.

He told council a study is very helpful for both staff and itself to explain to residents why a certain road will be paved or not.

Jeffs believed a lot of residents in Wainfleet understand the township is playing catchup when it comes to roads. She added a number of roads were done in 2011.

Ald. Richard Dykstra wanted to put off buying a tractor with a boom mower, but said he'd wait until Wuisman brought more information about the number of hours the current vehicle has operated.

Dykstra was in favour of a new 4X4 truck for the operations department to replace a 10-year-old vehicle.

Wuisman told the alderman and council that the longer the vehicles are put off, the more costly it becomes to operate the current fleet. He said wear and tear and repairs get to the point where it's more cost effective to buy a new vehicle.

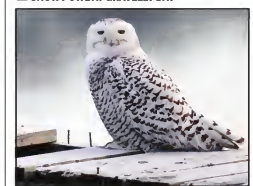
Township CAO Scott Luey said there is a fleet replacement plan and if one item is removed this year it means a replacement vehicle set for the year after would be pushed back a year.

"It creates a domino effect," Luey said.

Other items cut from the budget included: paving the community centre parking lot and replacing a catch basin on the east side of a pond by the arena.

Council felt with those two

■ SNOWY OWL AT GRAVELLY BAY



JOHN BORG Supplied photo
This snowy owl on a dock at Gravelly Bay was a rare find for bird enthusiast and hobbyist photographer John Borg of Port Colborne.

items could be dealt with once it was decided what was to become of the arena. The township is currently exploring options on how best to deal with upgrades needed at the arena.

Replacement bleachers, at a cost of \$16,000, were put off, as was \$10,000 for an electronic sign in front of township hall.

Ald. Betty Konec said the sign was a great idea, but was more of a want than a need.

portraits

■ **ON STAGE:** Operatic Society's new production

Annie brings the sun out

LINDSAY COSTELLO
For InPort News

PORT COLBORNE — Bet your bottom dollar that the tale of little orphan Annie will be retold this February as it makes its way to audiences in the lakeside city.

And yes, the sun will come out when this show hits the stage.

In its 67th annual musical production, the Port Colborne Operatic Society has brought together a group of about 80 children and adults who have spent months preparing for their Feb. 18 debut of *Annie*.

Annie is the story of a young orphan living in a miserable orphanage. Her seemingly hopeless situation changes when she is chosen to spend a short time at the residence of a wealthy industrialist, Oliver Warbucks. She charms the hearts of the household and even the cold-hearted Warbucks cannot help but learn to love Annie. He decides to help her find her long-lost parents by offering a reward if they come to him and prove their identity.

The Lakeshore Catholic High School auditorium has been filled with song and dance since October as the cast and crew rehearsed twice weekly in anticipation.

A family-friendly approach will give viewers a glimpse of talent both young and old.

Fifteen-year-old Bethany Ricker will embody the title character, a role she is looking forward to bringing to the stage in the coming weeks.

"I'm excited to put this show on," she said. "It's a lot of fun."

The Dunnville resident is in her sixth year as a member of the Hamilton Children's Choir and has been singing since she was eight years old.

Annie is her first major role in a Port Colborne Operatic



LINDSAY COSTELLO InPort News Photo
Fifteen-year-old Bethany Ricker, centre, and the cast of orphans practise the song and dance number for Annie's It's the Hard-Knock Life during a Port Colborne Operatic Society rehearsal in Port Colborne. Below, Ricker is pictured with Jamie Mowat as Daddy Warbucks.

Society production, having been cast in a supporting role in the group's version of the *Wizard of Oz* in 2009.

Ricker said that although she has never taken dance lessons and performing Broadway-style tunes is not what she is accustomed to, she was able to pick up on these elements quickly and enjoys spending time with the cast as they work together to hone their skills.

"I love working with the kids," she said of the cast of orphans she shares the stage with. "I'm so glad that they're in it," she adds.

Thirteen performers make up the orphan group, which consists of girls aged nine to

15 from across the Niagara region.

"We can learn from each other," said Jane Jarrett of the way the newcomers and past Operatic Society participants collaborate. Six of the girls are returning to the stage this year and have been able to assist their younger counterparts.

Ryann Wyldie said learning new dance steps was challenging early on but is an enjoyable part of performing while Maggie Desmarais cited hitting the high notes while learning the songs as a real area of difficulty.

Although there have been challenges to overcome, especially with the recent



addition of costumes and set pieces, the performers are in agreement that the hard work has been worth it and are

pleased with the outcome. At nine years old, Abigail Reed is one of the youngest performers. She summed up

WHO WHERE

What

■ Lakeshore Catholic High *Annie* is a Broadway musical based upon the popular Harold Gray comic strip *Little Orphan Annie*, with music by Charles Strouse, lyrics by Martin Charnin, and the book by Thomas Meehan. The original Broadway production opened in 1977 and ran for nearly six years. It spawned numerous productions in many countries, as well as national tours, and won the Tony Award for best musical. The musical's songs *Tomorrow* and *It's the Hard-Knock Life* are among its most popular musical numbers.

Where

■ Lakeshore Catholic High School Auditorium

When

■ Sat., Feb. 18, 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Feb. 19, 2 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 25, 7:30 p.m.
Fri., Feb. 26, 2 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 27, 7:30 p.m.
Sat., March 3, 7:30 p.m.
Sun., March 4, 2 p.m.

Tickets

■ Sold through the Showboat Festival Theatre Box Office for \$20 each. Orders can be placed in person between 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. from Monday to Friday by phone by calling 905-534-0833 or 1-888-870-8181.

Information

■ www.portcolborneoperaticosociety.com

her time with the cast.

"It really is an amazing experience," she said. "I love it."

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ourview

Wrong decision

Niagara Region will not be buying a portion of Lakewood Camp and we think council made the wrong decision. Regional Council, Chair Gary Burroughs broke a vote on a confidential staff recommendation regarding the former Easter Seals camp in Wainfleet.

Staff had recommended the region negotiate with Lakewood Beach Properties Ltd. the current owner of the land on Lakeshore Rd. in Wainfleet. The exact motion was not revealed during the public portion of the regional council meeting. Dan Rasetta, one of the property owners, said the motion regional councillors were voting on pertained to entering into negotiations with his company to buy a significant part of the property.

He said Wainfleet Mayor April Jeffs approached the company to discuss possible negotiations, "and we came to an agreement."

At stake was the whole beach, which is three quarters of a mile long, with 26 acres (of land). Sources put the assessed value of the property at about \$7.5 million.

Jeffs said she was disappointed about the lost opportunity and that another public beach would have been great for Wainfleet and Niagara as a whole if it could have been purchased at the right price.

The mayor said people from across Niagara have told her Lakewood Beach is the best-kept secret in the region.

We agree with Jeffs, the beach is the best-kept secret in Wainfleet and Niagara. It's a wide, untouched beach that would be a great asset.

The region has a lakefront enhancement strategy and the goal of it is to provide back access to Niagara's waterfront, including buying shoreline on both Great Lakes.

What killed the deal at the region was the process, according to councillors after the meeting.

Ken Koyama, publisher, said "McMullan called the recommendation on the table 'almost obscene' and said he was glad it went the way it did. Pelham Mayor Dave Augustyn said it was the way things were done and structured that killed the deal."

Unfortunately we don't know the recommendation was structured because it was talked about behind closed doors.

We understand why it was behind closed doors. Potential land acquisitions are allowed to be made behind closed doors because a land owner could drive the price of a piece of property up if they knew a government was interested in it.

Though it would take a two-thirds recommendation vote to bring the matter back up at regional council.

We don't see that happening unfortunately.

It's a shame the recommendation went the way it did last week. The beach at Lakeshore would have been a great asset for Wainfleet and Niagara. It would have been a great tourist draw for all.

I'VE BEEN THINKING

INTERIM PASTOR GARY TOMIUCK
Wainfleet Congregational Christian Church

What does the word Pilgrim mean? It means strangers, sojourners—resident aliens. Those living in a country that they do not belong to. Christians have a dual citizenship. One on earth now and one in Heaven later. While we may sing that song the earth is not my home, I'm only passing through this is only partially true. We are promised a true eternal home, the New Jerusalem coming down from Heaven to earth. God has prepared a city for us and we are daily on a pilgrimage to it.

In John Bunyan's classic — "The Pilgrims Progress" — Christian has a dream that his city will be burned with fire from Heaven. He warns his wife and his children of this impending judgment and they think that he is out of his mind. He then cries out "What must I do to be saved?" Then in his hand he discovers a book that he tells them he is condemned to die. He then meets a man named "Evangelist" who says to him "Fly from the wrath to come." He points Christians to the Wicket Gate. We are told in MT 7:13 "Enter by the narrow gate for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction".

readers' views

Ontario's standards are not safe

For Tom Lewis of IPC — You will have to do better than that.

I'm sure Mayor April Jeffs and her council can respond for themselves. I respond as the... regular vocal opponent. I do indeed decry the evils of the wind energy industry with regard to industrial wind turbines.

Just like Wainfleet's elected council, it takes very little research to prove just how harmful these projects will be to yet one more rural community that quite rightly is justifiably proud of its uniqueness.

Mr. Lewis' attitude plainly shows he sees us as ignorant peasants who have no right to dispute him.

For Mr. Lewis' information, the Scottish, English and Australian parliaments, amongst other government agencies, have all recommended a minimum two kilometre safe setback distance. I guess in Mr. Lewis' opinion anyone who questions him is no more than an interest group.

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Pilgrims and their progress

As you set out on your pilgrimage you too will meet with resistance and your former friends will try to turn you out of the way. Christian meets Plahbe who tells him to turn back and follow him Christian (Pilgrim) does not but he has assurance at this point. This is typified by the heavy burden he carries on his back. He then falls into a bog called the Slough of Despond. Some of us have experienced depression at various degrees but this can be amplified by the fact that we are carrying our heavy burdens alone when we should be bearing one another's burdens. A friend named Help grants Christian by the hand and sets his feet on solid rock. We sing "Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground I sinking sand".

Christian then comes to a place where there is a cross and his burden is loosened from his shoulders, fell from his back and tumbled into the open sepulchre where it fell and he saw it no more. As fellow pilgrims we should give our burdens to the Lord. He died for them on the cross. In this journey we all have two different mountains to climb. The Hill Difficult often causes us to slip and slide and fall. But we are strengthened in his endeavor mainly by looking to Jesus who climbed the most difficult mountain of all — Mount

Calvary which he climbed alone. The next mountains Christian climbs are called the Delectable Mountains overlooking Immanuel's Land — Laden with vineyards and fruit and from which he can see the view of the Celestial city. This is only a foretaste of glory as we press on for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ.

When Christian enters the Valley of Humiliation he meets Apollyon — "The Dragon who threw flaming darts at Christian who held up his Shield Of Faith and deflected them. Christian is eventually wounded in his head, hand and foot and is almost pressed to death. When he finally caught hold of his sword and gave him a deadly thrust — a mortal wound as that dragon sped away for a season. We must always wear the armor of God in our own spiritual warfare. As Christian awakes he finds a new friend

— Hopeful and the two of them get thrown into a dungeon and are beaten by a nine foot giant named Giant Despair. Christian finds a key in his bosom called Promise — he uses it in the dungeon door, turns the key and the door flies open. Don't be the promises of God give us hope? And is not he whom the sun sets free, free indeed?

see **THINKING** | page 5

at the same time just dismis Dr. Robert McCurtury's actual patient research? DrMcCurtury's continues a distinguished career having been an adviser to Health Canada amongst other appointments. He received the Order of Canada only last year, several years after he began researching the negative impacts of industrial wind turbines on rural Ontario citizens. I think his resume is a pretty good one, every bit as good as a chief medical officer of health who was appointed by, and works for, the government who continues to impose the Green Energy Act on its rural citizens regardless of growing evidence worldwide that at the very least, independent epidemiological studies which would be done based on ongoing research and not on the 30 year old information on which the Green Energy Act was written. 40 decibels may be acceptable to Mr. Lewis. The World Health Organization recommends 32 decibels and the Danish government even less, at 25 decibels. Ontario's standards are not 'safe' as Mr. Lewis claims.

Andrew Watts
Wainfleet

■ THINKING

Crossing the River of Death to the River of Life

FROM PAGE 4

Finally Christian and Hopeful come to a gate in which there is a River but no bridge to go over. He is told there were only two, Enoch and Elijah that didn't have to cross that river since they never died. They were both translated into Heaven. And as they made it over they saw two "Shiny Ones" who told them that the beauty and glory of this place was inexpressible. Then the King said "Open the gate." Then the bells of this city rang for joy and it was said "Enter into the joy of the Lord." The city shone like the sun, the streets were paved with gold

and they had crowns on their heads, palms in their hands and Golden Harps.

This is just a glimpse of Pilgrims and their progress this is a mere foretaste of glory that awaits every believer. We overcome many tribulations, we endure to the end and we cross over the River of Death to the River of Life into the glory with our Lord and other Christian loved ones forever. And we sing now what we shall sing later - "Blessings and Honour and Glory and Power be Into Him - who sits upon the throne and unto the Lamb forever." - Amen.

■ PROPERTY: Deal rejected

Camp divided on Lakewood

ALLAN BENNER and JEFF BOLICHOWSKI
QMI Agency

THOROLD — Niagara Region will not be buying a portion of Lakewood Camp.

Regional councillors emerged from behind closed doors last week and, in a tie vote decided by Chair Gary Burroughs, rejected a confidential staff recommendation regarding the former Easter Seals camp in Wainfleet.

There will be no negotiations with current owner Lakewood Beach Properties Ltd. to buy a portion of its lakefront property.

The exact motion was not revealed during the public portion of the council meeting. Regional clerk Kevin Bain named it only as a motion respecting a confidential report on a proposed acquisition of land involving Lakewood Beach.

Dan Raseta, one of the



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Lakewood Camp in Wainfleet is seen in this August, 2007 photo.

property owners, however, said the motion regional councillors were voting on pertained to entering into negotiations with his company to buy a significant part of the property.

He said Wainfleet Mayor April Jeffs approached the company to discuss possible negotiations, "and we

co-operated."

At stake was "the whole beach, which is three quarters of a mile long, with 26 acres (of land)," Raseta said.

"I understand that they're not interested in pursuing it. That's fine. We're just going to continue doing what we're doing," he said, referring to plans to build condomini-

ums on the rest of the camp property.

He said that work will proceed in the near future.

"We're working on some other projects now, but we're hoping to see some movement (at Lakewood) soon."

Even though Lakewood won't be publicly owned, Raseta said the beach will still have limited public access.

"Public access will make it a walkable beach, but there will be no infrastructure for people to actually hang out at the beach," he said. "The neighbours could walk along it, but there will be no where for people to park or washrooms and accessibility and all that stuff that goes along with having a proper public beach."

Jeffs said she was disappointed about the lost opportunity.

see PROPERTY | page 6

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PROPERTY

Motion to acquire land narrows rejected

FROM PAGE 5

She said another public beach would have been great for Wainfleet and Niagara as a whole if it could have been purchased at the right price.

Sources put the assessed value of the property at about \$7.5 million.

Jeffs said people from across Niagara have told her Lakewood Beach is the best-kept secret in the region.

"It would be great for everybody. We were close to going forward and looking at it and seeing what we could do, but who knows down the road."

Asked if the township might consider negotiating with Raseta for the property instead, Jeffs said the local municipality does not have the resources to do so.

As for the regional municipality, some upper-tier councillors said it has no business looking for beach-front property.

"The motion that got passed was the right motion," a visibly angry Grimsby Coun. Debbie Zimmerman told reporters after Thursday night's vote.



Lakewood Camp in Wainfleet is seen in this August 2007 photo.

She also couldn't elaborate on the motion, but said she hadn't seen anything like it in her time in government.

St. Catharines Mayor Brian McMullan called the recommendation on the table "almost obscene." He said council would need a two-thirds reconsideration vote to

take it up again, which he felt was unlikely.

"I'm glad it went the way it did. It would've been a shame to the taxpayers," he said. St. Catharines Coun. Andy Petrowski said council should, generally, be looking at lakefront property where it can.

"It was about process. It wasn't about acquisition," he said.

And he said shutting down the process would mean taxpayers may never know what benefits the property in question could have brought.

"I don't think (the vote) was

about the cost of the process. ... In the end, it was the politics of vitriol."

Pelham Mayor Dave Augustyn didn't mention Lakewood by name, but said the property matter in question had some councillors looking to continue and others not.

"There was disagreement over the particular site and the way it was done and the way things were structured," he said.

"I think it was the wrong way to go and structured incorrectly."

Several regional politicians

with Raseta, putting them over the \$750 donation limit from individuals. Both paid back the over-contributions they received.

Though Niagara Falls Coun. Bart Maves received \$2,150 from three Raseta-linked companies, he returned their contributions in July, according to a letter attached to his campaign financing form.

"He didn't even keep one," said Niagara Falls deputy clerk Bill Matson. "Actually, he was entitled to."

On the nay side, McMullan got \$1,500 from companies linked to Raseta and also repaid the over-donations he pulled in.

Petrowski said the donations meant "150% nothing" in deciding his vote.

"I want to be really clear," he said. "My position on acquiring lakefront, or any other real estate for the people of Niagara ... has nothing to do with who financed or who contributed to my campaign."

Rigby told reporters after the vote that people who donated to him "know that I'm not going to be bought for votes."

McMullan said, "Campaign donations are part of our democratic system." And he said they wouldn't influence how he'd vote.

HOW THEY VOTED

On a recommendation drawn from a closed session report on the proposed land acquisition involving Lakewood Beach in Wainfleet:

YEA, 11 — Couns. Tim Rigby, Selina Volpatti, Alan Caslin, Bart Maves, David Barrick, Andy Petrowski, Jim Diodati, Paul Grenier, April Jeffs, Doug Joyner and Doug Martin.

NAY, 12 — Couns. Brian Heit, Brian McMullan, George Marshall, Brian Baty, Ted Luciani, Debbie Zimmerman, Henry D'Angela, Bill Hodgson, Dave Augustyn, Bob Bentley, Dave Lepp and Chair Gary Burroughs (tiebreaker).

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help regulate leptin. All of these properties can have a significant impact on weight loss and weight management efforts.

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Files D14-02-12 & D12-01-12



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Proposed Draft Plan of Subdivision & Zoning By-law
Amendment - Rosemount Estates
2260304 Ontario Inc.

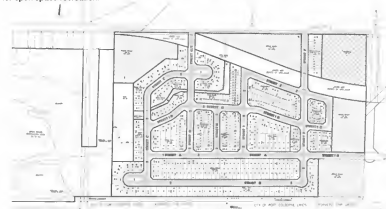
PROPOSED ZONING AMENDMENT

The zoning amendment proposes to change the zoning of the property known as Concession 1, Part of Lots 31, 32 and 33 described as Parts 1, 9, 10 and 14 on Plan 59R-0019 in the City of Port Colborne, located on the south side of Kilgus Street West from RD (Residential Development), P (Public and Park) and OS (Private Open Space) to a site specific R2 (Second Density Residential), RT (Residential Townhouse), R4 (Fourth Density Residential) and to the NG (Neighbourhood Commercial), P (Public and Park) and OS (Private Open Space) zones. The proposed zoning change will permit the use of single detached dwellings, street townhouse dwellings, apartment dwellings, neighbourhood commercial and open space uses on a proposed Draft Plan of Subdivision.

The zoning change will also allow reduced lot frontage and lot area for single detached dwellings and street townhouse dwellings. The proposed zoning change will be subject to a holding symbol which will restrict the proposed uses from occurring until the developer enters into a Subdivision Agreement with the City.

DRAFT PLAN OF SUBDIVISION

The Draft Plan of Subdivision proposes 219 single detached residential lots on 10.2 hectares, 173 townhouses on 4.75 hectares, 570 medium density residential lots on 6.6 hectares, 7.34 hectares for roadways, 1.52 hectares for neighbourhood commercial use, 1.39 hectares for parkland and 21.22 hectares for open space recreation.



HAVE YOUR SAY

Input on the proposed changes are welcome and encouraged. You can provide input by: speaking at the public meeting or by making a written submission to the City. Please note that unless you do one of the above now, you may not be able to appeal the decision later.

PUBLIC MEETING

Date: Monday March 12, 2012

Time: 6:30 PM

Place: City Hall Council Chambers, 3rd Floor
66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne, Ontario

WRITTEN SUBMISSION

To provide input in writing, or to request personal notice of the decision of Council of the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment and Draft Plan of Subdivision, please send a letter to: Ashley Gings, City Clerk, 66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne, Ontario, L3K 3C8.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information on the proposal please contact Shannon Lerocque, Planner at 905-835-2901, extension 202.

A copy of the Planning Division's Public Meeting Report will be available for inspection on Wednesday March 7, 2012 in the Clerk's Division, located on the First Floor, 66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne, Ontario, or on the City's website at www.portcolborne.ca under "Council Agendas".

LEGAL NOTICE

Sections 34 and 51 of the Planning Act

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the City of Port Colborne before a decision on the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment and Draft Plan of Subdivision are passed by Council, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the City of Port Colborne Council to the Ontario Municipal Board. If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the City of Port Colborne before a decision on the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment and Draft Plan of Subdivision is passed by Council, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Municipal Board unless, in the opinion of the Board, there are reasonable grounds to do so. If you wish to be notified of the decision of City Council in respect to the proposed by-law you must make a written request to the City Clerk.

Dated at the City of Port Colborne this 17th day of February, 2012.

■ **STUDY:** Council could consider one in the future

Road-condition study pulled out of township's 2012 budget

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — Rough roads are nothing new to Wainfleet residents, but for the second year in a row a study that would have told the township which roads should be fixed first was pulled from the budget.

Mayor April Jeffs asked for the \$35,000 study to be removed, which helped bring down the 2012 tax levy, and stood by the decision.

"Last year residents thanked us for not doing the study. I think at this point it's pretty apparent what roads need to be done."

Jeffs said township staff took her and council for a tour of various roads across Wainfleet this past fall and while in most cases it was very obvious which ones needed to be repaired, in others, it wasn't.

She said Greg Wuisman, director of operations, explained why that even though some roads didn't look so bad, they were in fact in very poor condition.

Once we're caught up, I can see the value in a study."

Wainfleet Mayor April Jeffs

During budget deliberations, Wuisman said that cracks in paved roads allow water to seep down inside and when the water freezes in the winter, it causes damage inside. Freeze-thaw cycles, he said, can be very bad for roads.

Pettit Rd. is one of those roads with cracks in it, and it was on Wuisman's list to be repaired in 2012, but council pulled it.

"Greg said it could wait another year," said Jeffs, adding the mild winter has been good for roads in the township.

The mayor said Wainfleet is playing catch up on fixing roads across the municipality, especially those along the lakeshore. Lakeshore area roads were put off being repaired when the Big Pipe (water-sewer pipeline) proposal was still on the books. With the cancellation of that proposal, the township fixed a number of roads in the area last year.

She understands people want

their roads fixed or brought up to tar and chip or pavement, from gravel, but adds the township is nowhere near that yet.

"We have to fix what we have now."

Wuisman

Jeffs said

Wuisman could have added even more roads to his list presented during deliberations this year.

As it is, the township is looking at spending close to \$700,000 this year on repairs. Roads account for 43%

Jeffs

of Wainfleet's roughly \$4.4-million budget. The roads budget takes in winter control, maintenance, roadside mowing and salaries of employees.

Though she asked for the study — only a small portion of the overall budget — to be pulled, it doesn't mean the mayor or council are against one being done.

"Once we're caught up, I can see the value in a study," she said.

Wuisman said the study would prioritize which roads need to be fixed first and what could be delayed. It would also look at traffic volumes, and the condition of the road.

"It's a really useful tool ... it would be a professional evaluation," he said.

The study would also give council justification as to which road would be fixed first, he added, especially since residents constantly approach staff and alderman to talk about their road.

Even though the study has been pulled, Wuisman said Dave Anderson, who does presentations for Ontario Good Roads Association, was scheduled to be before council on Tuesday, Feb. 14, to talk about the value of a roads study.

Jeffs said it would have been nice for the presenter to come before budget time, but Wuisman said next week was the earliest Anderson, who works for the engineering firm Totten Sims Hubicki, could come.


www.wellandtribune.ca

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TOWNSHIP OF WAINFLEET NOTICE

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE AND WORKSHOP NEW COMPREHENSIVE ZONING BYLAW AND SITE PLAN CONTROL GUIDELINES

Please be advised that Council for the Township of Wainfleet will be holding a public meeting on **Saturday, February 25, 2012, 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** in the Wainfleet Volunteer Firehall, 31907 Park Street, Wainfleet. The purpose of this open house and workshop is to present background information and seek public input concerning the creation of a New Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw and Site Plan Control Guidelines. Public input is a critical component of this project and will help shape these critical planning documents and overall development regulation in the Township. All Wainfleet residents, property owners and other stakeholders are invited to attend. The Township of Wainfleet has retained Sorenson Gravely Lowes Planning Associates Inc. Participants are required to R.S.V.P. to Irene McDonald at imcdonald@wainfleet.ca or (905) 899-3463, extension 224. Additional information is available at www.wainfleet.ca.

How Would You Like to Have Beautiful Hair?

My name is Marianne Schneider. I am 54 years old and I have had hair problems as long as I can remember. I have experimented with an endless array of shampoos, sprays, hair treatments and conditioners and I have spent an enormous amount of money in hair salons. But all those efforts were to no avail... the results didn't last more than a few hours, at best.

When I was 49 it got even worse - one day I started shedding large tufts of hair. I consulted doctors and had my hormone status analyzed. I tried Schuessler salts and body detox therapy, none of which had any lasting effect. Finally, I had my hair cut short and only ventured into public wearing a headscarf because, by now I had so little hair left that my scalp was clearly visible. My friends pretended not to notice and told me it wasn't that bad. Sometimes though, I caught them sneaking glances at my head. And those stares at the supermarket or at the cinema - sometimes it was simply unbearable.

About three years ago, I met a woman who took me aside and asked, "Do you have a



problem with your hair? Have you ever heard of silica?" Then she told me her own tale of woe, she said, "I had the same problem as you. Three years ago I suffered a lot of stress in my job and personal life and I started losing all of my hair. My daughter suggested that I try Original Silicea Balsam." This woman told me it took about three months, but you know, her hair looked remarkable!

So I tried Original Silicea Balsam and before long my hair actually started to grow back! In time it became much thicker and it felt much stronger. After about six months my hair had a wonderful shine and it looked very healthy.

Now I have the beautiful hair I have been dreaming of all of my life. Although I am still the object of sneaky glances, and again it's because of my hair - but now I revel in those glances admiring my beautiful, healthy hair.

Marianne Schneider

For more info about Original Silicea Balsam, visit Rosemary's Natural Choices.

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Sale ends March 6th



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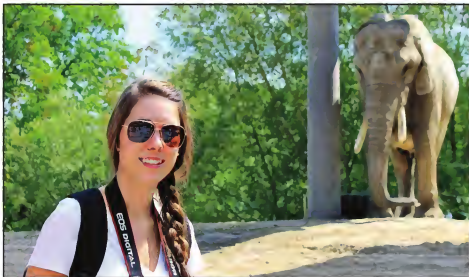
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**95 Lincoln Street (St. Charles Plaza)
1 Block South of Pupos in Welland
Phone: 905-714-0586**

www.rosemarysnaturalchoices.com

Information is provided for reference only. For specific health issues consult your local natural health practitioner.

■ VOLUNTEERING: Brandie Botsford-O'Reilly asking for community's help to work with abused animals in Thailand



Port Colborne resident Brandie Botsford-O'Reilly, 20, plans to spend the months this spring working with abused elephants in Thailand.

Supplied photo

'Dream come true' involves tending to elephants

ALLAN BENNER
InPort News

PORT COLBORNE — Brandie Botsford-O'Reilly has always loved animals.

That hasn't changed.

The 20-year-old shares her family's Sherkston home with a dwarf bunny, a bird and a dog. And the Brock University human geography student said she plans to pursue a career that will allow her to spend her life working with animals.

"I definitely want to work in conservation when I get older. That's my main goal, to work with animals and just make people aware that they're equal just like everybody else. I have a huge soft spot for animals," she said.

She plans to get a head start on that career this spring, when she leaves May 24 to spend a month in Thailand working with International Student Volunteers.

Botsford-O'Reilly will spend the first two weeks there doing wildlife conservation work, helping animals that have been abused or orphaned. She'll be with 20 to 50 other volunteers from around the world.

In developing countries Asian elephants are often used by street performers and beggars, and endure physical abuse and emotional and psychological trauma, she said.

They're also put to work at tourist trekking camps, or used for logging and rice paddies. At times, their labours have left them with broken bones and severe injuries. Other elephants have endured life-threatening abuse while working at tourist trekking camps, logging camps or rice paddies, where they're often worked to the point of broken bones, severely injured joints or near-death. Once rescued, local rescue groups and ISV volunteers care for these elephants.

“That's my main goal, to work with animals and just make people aware that they're equal just like everybody else. I have a huge soft spot for animals.”

Brandie Botsford-O'Reilly

Thailand's people and government have begun to recognize the urgent need to support, protect and conserve Thailand's wildlife.

With the support of the Thailand government, International Student Volunteers are brought in to care for animals rescued by local organizations.

Botsford-O'Reilly will work with the elephants in a conservation area, and her second week in Thailand will be spent with abused gibbon monkeys.

The final two weeks of her stay will be spent on "an educational adventure tour" of the country she'll be staying in.

"We get to visit some highlights around Thailand ... We'll get a chance to learn a lot more about the culture and stuff like that."

But making her trip a reality won't be cheap.

She said volunteers need to pay about \$7,000 to cover the cost of airfare, accommodations and food, and she's hoping the community will pitch in to help make her dream come true.

She said she's currently working to organize a raffle to raise money for the trip, and she's asking for donations of prize items. People can contact her at brandie_oreilly@hotmail.com or call 905-894-8599. "It's tricky because it is international travel, but it's definitely going to be worth it," she said. "This is a dream for me."



PORT COLBORNE

NOTICE TO CITIZENS APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

The City of Port Colborne is accepting applications from citizens for positions on boards and committees. The vacancies are due to the expiry of current appointments, resignations or insufficient applications in response to prior recruitments. Positions are available on the following boards and committees:

- Accessibility Advisory Committee;
- Port Colborne Seniors Advisory Council; and
- Port Colborne Public Library Board.

On November 10, 2008, Council adopted a policy respecting appointments to boards and committees. This policy establishes the process relating to the recruitment, selection and appointment of members of the public to boards and committees and the City's expectations of such appointees. The policy requires that the successful applicants consent to the release by the City of their name and personal information relating to their education, qualifications and experience which is pertinent to the appointment. Council will release the name of an unsuccessful applicant only with the written consent of the applicant. Please visit the City's website www.portcolborne.ca to access the full text of the policy and a brief description of the mandate of the above board/committee, etc.

Unless the terms of reference of the board/committee provide otherwise, applicants must:

- be eighteen years of age or older
- a qualified municipal elector in the City of Port Colborne
- not be disqualified by the *Municipal Act, 2001*, *Municipal Election Act, 1996* or the *Planning Act*
- not be an employee of the City of Port Colborne or the board.

Applicants must provide sufficient information regarding their qualifications and related experience for Council to make an informed decision. The standard form of application is available on the City's website and/or from the City Clerk's Office.

Applications in person, by e-mail or regular mail will be received by the undersigned until 4:30 p.m. on March 2, 2012.

Ashley Grigg, City Clerk
City Hall, 66 Charlotte Street
Port Colborne, Ontario L3K 3C8
ashleygrigg@portcolborne.ca
(905) 835-2900 ext. 106

Personal information is collected under authority of the *Municipal Act, 2001* and pursuant to the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and will be used only to evaluate the suitability of applicants. Questions respecting the collection of information should be directed to the City Clerk of the City of Port Colborne.

■ **POPULATION:** Wainfleet loses the most

West leads Niagara's struggling growth

JEFF BOLUCHOWSKI
QMI AGENCY

WELLAND — The west was No. 1 for Niagara region's otherwise sluggish growth over the past five years — Wainfleet not included.

Niagara was home to 431,346 people in 2011, up a scant 0.9% from 427,421 in 2006, according to census data released Wednesday by Statistics Canada.

Grimby led the region with a 5.8% rise to 25,325 people in 2011. Lincoln added 3.5%, jumping to 22,487 people, and West Lincoln climbed 5.1% to 13,837 people.

Wainfleet, however, was the biggest loser, shedding 3.7% of its 2006 population. The township had 6,356 people in 2011.

Other south Niagara communities also struggled.

Port Colborne's population shrank by 0.9% to 18,424 residents, while Welland's population only grew three-fifths of a percentage point to come in at 50,631.

St. Catharines and Thorold also both shed people. The Garden City population declined by about 600, falling to 131,400 people. Thorold shrank to 17,831 people.

It's difficult to attract people to this area when we haven't had a significant increase in jobs."

David Siegel, political science professor at Brock University

The St. Catharines-Niagara census metropolitan area, which excludes Grimby and West Lincoln, grew half a percentage point to 392,184 people, lagging behind every other metro area save shrinking Windsor and Thunder Bay. At the census division level, which records the whole region and counts several other shrinking Canadian towns, Welland has a stronger showing but still came in below average.

Only Grimby topped Ontario's 5.7% growth rate.

"It's probably a matter of jobs," said Brock University political science professor David Siegel. He said people go where the work is, and in Niagara, there's not much to go around thanks to a battered industrial sector.

"It's difficult to attract people to this area when we haven't had a significant increase in jobs."

Niagara has struggled in previous censuses, he said, with St. Catharines

POPULATION NUMBERS

Here are the population numbers for Niagara's census division and subdivisions in 2011 as stacked up against how we did in 2006.

- Niagara Region: 431,346, up 0.9% from 427,421 in 2006
- Welland: 50,631, up 0.6% from 50,331
- Port Colborne: 18,424, down 0.9% from 18,599
- Thorold: 17,931, down 1.6% from 18,224
- Pelham: 16,598, up 2.7% from 16,155
- Wainfleet: 6,356, down 3.7% from 6,601

— Statistics Canada

typically growing slower than most. The bad news for Thorold came as a surprise to Mayor Ted Luciani.

"I'm optimistic that's going to change over the next census. There's a lot of houses being built in Thorold," he said.

He said the loss of population wouldn't affect the brewing battle over Thorold Secondary School's fate. The school is being reviewed by District School Board of Niagara and could be closed, a potential move the city is fighting.

Commenting on the region's sluggish growth, regional Chair Gary Burroughs said: "It's better than lower than that, but not as good as we can be.

"Personally, I was hoping for more, period."

Regional planning commissioner Patrick Robison said Niagara's small growth comes as residents per household decline. He said that speaks to an aging community, but also to young, single people starting to buy houses.

"I think it represents the reality of being a maturing community," he said of the growth figures.

"If we're not an attractive place from a job standpoint, we'll continue to be a nice place to visit, but that doesn't necessarily translate to a solid foundation for growth."

Siegel, also director of the Niagara Community Observatory, said west Niagara's growth could be chalked up to people moving in who work in Hamilton, Burlington and Toronto. And he said the southern tier is struggling because of employment problems.


"Again, it's a matter of jobs. People will go where the jobs are."

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■ **RED TOQUE:** Helping Raise the Roof

Lakeshore students use their heads

EDDIE CHAU
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — No head was bare at Lakeshore Catholic High School. Students typically recog-

nizable by their school uniforms showed up for class instead in their normal street clothes — but it was a distinct red toque that distinguished them all. Lakeshore was deter-

mined to put a "cap" on homelessness.

Students from the school's philosophy class sold brightly hued red toques in support of the Raising the Roof Toque Tuesday cam-

paign. Toque sales raise money for Raising the Roof, a non-profit organization that works at finding long-term solutions to homelessness through partnerships with community organiza-

tions and public education.

Since 1997 Raising the Roof has allocated \$3.3 million to various partner agencies across the country.

Teacher Lisa Bowers-

Young said students set a target of raising \$2,000 — an amount achieved through its toque sales.

The money was donated to Port Cares, one of Raising the Roof's partner agencies.



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■ **CALLING:** Wellandport teen finds her calling



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Wellandport teen Michaela Coolen will be heading to Clarkston, Georgia this summer after being accepted for a 10-week internship there to work with refugees.

Missionary's path leads to southern U.S.

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

WELLANDPORT — Michaela Coolen believes she's found her calling.

But the 18-year-old Wellandport resident will know for sure after a 10-week stint in Clarkston, Ga., this summer.

It was by chance that the Brock University nursing student came across the volunteer internship for which she is now eagerly awaiting the Tuesday, May 29, departure.

Coolen was researching one-to-two week mission trips for her youth group at Zion Free Reformed Church, when she happened upon a website offering summer-long internships.

At first, the Heritage Christian School graduate gravitated toward a program in Kenya to work with local youth. But after learning the trip was cancelled, it was the internship in Clarkston, about 15 minutes from Atlanta, that caught her eye.

The internship centres around the many refugee families who come to live in Clarkston, the most culturally diverse square mile in the United States. Half of the city's population originate from outside of the country.

Upon arriving in the U.S., some refugees actually receive an invitation

from the government to live in the small city, which covers just over one square mile.

During her time in Clarkston, Coolen will be assisting with youth programs, developing a sports outreach program, helping to teach English to refugee families, and tutoring at-risk youth.

She'll also act as a leader during a summer camp held in the city and spend time with World Relief employees to help refugees work through the complexities of life in North America as they settle into their new environment.

The position in Clarkston is unique, Coolen said, as it allows her to conduct her missionary work within North America.

"It's not what you'd typically think of," she said, as many people travel to Third World nations for their missions.

"I'm not nervous yet. I'm very excited about it," Coolen said, though she suspects her nerves might kick in as the trip nears.

It will be her first time away from her family for such an extended period of time, but she's determined not to let homesickness get the best of her.

see MISSION | page 15

MISSION

Coolen set to embark on life path she's longed for

FROM PAGE 14

Though she knows her family, including father Jeff, mother Marianne and brothers Caleb, 16, Josiah, 13, and Zachary, 10, will miss her, she feels they're proud of her decision.

"I've always wanted to go on a mission," she said,

adding her family knew it was only a matter of time before the opportunity presented itself.

"I want to grow in my knowledge of God while I'm there, to know who he is and trust in him more," Coolen said.

She feels the experience

will be a true indicator of whether she's suited for missionary life, a path she's long wanted to take.

It's going to cost Coolen about \$3,200 to cover her travel expenses and various program supplies that are required. To help lessen the out-of-pocket costs, she's

hosting a series of fundraisers.

Coolen will also host a fundraising volleyball tournament at Heritage Christian School, 2850 4th Ave. in Jordan, on Saturday, March 10 from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Cost to register is \$120 per team. For more information, search Fundraising Volleyball

Tournament on Facebook.

Anyone interested in donating to Coolen's trip can do so by visiting www.mtw.organdtypinginMichaellaCoolen.

For donations needing a tax receipt, e-mail Coolen at michaella_101@sympatico.ca for more information.

"I want to grow in my knowledge of God while I'm there, to know who he is and trust in him more."

Michaella Coolen



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■ TALK SHOW: Port comedian accepts new role

Crawford takes talents to the web

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — He's rubbed elbows with Regis Philbin — actually performing on stage with Philbin — and Kelly Ripa, performed in front of countless audiences over the past 10 years and even had his own online radio show.

Now Joe Crawford has landed his own webcast talk show, a dream come true for the 27-year-old Port Colborne man.

And with that show, which started a couple of weeks ago, Crawford is landing some pretty big name guests.

"I've had Gail Vaz-Oxlade, of *Til Debt Do Us Part* and Princess, and on Gilbert Gottfried is my next guest," Crawford said.

Gottfried is an actor and stand-up comedian and will be in Toronto in late February. He's also known as being the voice of the parrot in the *Aladdin* movie and, up until some injudicious tweets lost him the gig, the voice of the Aflac duck in the Aflac TV commercials.

In addition to Gottfried, Crawford has Canadian comedian Ron James, Rick Mercer, the judges and hosts of Canada's *Got Talent*, and singer Christina Aguilera lined up for his show, called *Entertainment Extra* with Joe Crawford on www.remixtv.com.

"If I make people laugh, I've done my job."

Joe Crawford, actor and comedian

"The show is online only ... it's not live though. I tape my shows on Monday and they are usually up by Friday."

Monday is the day that Crawford, who works at Community Living in Port Colborne, has off. He said remixtv owner Frank Corbin was very understanding when he hired him on.

"When I went in for the audition, he asked me if I had a five-to 10-minute monologue ready to go."

Crawford wasn't prepared for that, so Corbin told him to improvise something as he auditioned. He was hired on the spot.

One thing different about doing the show is that unlike most talk shows, there's no studio audience for Crawford to stand in front of.

"That makes it a little tricky for someone used to an immediate reaction."

"It's just me and the camera."
It's why he encourages people to follow him on Facebook, Twitter and his



File photo

Port Colborne native Joe Crawford performs at Variety Nites by the Canal hosted by the Rose City Seniors Activity Centre in this 2009 file photo.

own website at www.joecrawfordlive.com. That website has links to the various social media sites he's on and e-mails links as well.

"I want people to interact with me ... I want comments and questions from my audience. I like to keep things interactive."

"If I make people laugh, I've done my job."

With the Internet growing and more people watching programs online, Crawford sees his show and others like it on remixtv as the future.

"It's the new way of watching things." He used Skype to talk Vaz-Oxlade, so he doesn't have to have his guest in studio with him.

As for the format of the show, Crawford comes out, does his monologue, presents a fact of the day, interviews his guest and has a word of the day before signing off.

Unlike other talk shows, Crawford doesn't have a set of prepared questions for his guests. He prefers the spontaneity of just asking questions and following up on the responses.

"You might miss something really good if you ask a question and just move on to the next one."

Crawford believes an interview should be like a regular conversation and he's been told by others that he's a great interviewer.

Asked how he's able to attract people like Mercer and Aguilera, he said he subscribes to a lot of celebrity search databases. He looks for public relations people and then sends out mass e-mails, hoping for a response.

"There are a lot of no's, but people are saying yes."

One guest he's hoping to get on his show in the future is Philbin.

■ **NOT CLOSING:** Ice comes out mid-April

'Do nothing' not a choice for arena's future

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — Wainfleet Arena is not closing indefinitely in April, despite rumours, says Mayor April Jeffs.

"The ice will be removed on April 17 as usual. I met with the fire chief earlier this week and he has no intentions to issue an order to close the facility while we continue to pursue a solution," said Jeffs, referring to work that needs to be carried out on the arena.

Structural and fire code deficiencies were noted by then-chief Chris Cole and a representative from the Ontario Fire Marshal's office in August 2010. An inspection found the Moore Room, change rooms and Friendship Room were all made of wood construction and a fire-suppression system would have had to have been installed due to

the combustible materials.

An architect gave Wainfleet two options: improving the fire rating by applying material to the walls or installing a sprinkler system.

Council decided to hire a firm to look at other options for the facility. Township CAO Scott Luey and Jeffs said conceptual designs were done by a firm that was the successful bidder in a competitive bid process. Several bids were received and council ended up choosing the lowest bid of \$1,280.

Residents can comment on the four options for arena improvements until today. The plans can be found at www.wainfleet.caand in the Moore Room. Costs for the options range between \$2.4 million and just under \$3.1 million.

At the Feb. 14 council meeting, township staff will be bringing a recommendation to council to strike a

public liaison committee that will include directly appointed representatives from the community. The meetings will be open to the public and will provide a forum for further discussion. Jeffs said to "do nothing" is not an

option.

"We absolutely have a bare minimum that we need to do to achieve fire code standards. The possibility of a facility revamp is on the table, however, it's not necessarily the option

that will be chosen. We have opted to establish a committee to continue the conversation with the community and not push any particular option through until all options have been explored."

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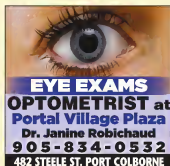
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■ **PORT HIGH:** Part of program

Thurston's, Oskam giving glimpse into operations

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Fifteen Port Colborne High School grades 11 and 12 students will have a chance to network with industry professionals Friday when they tour two local manufacturing facilities.

Co-op education teacher Shawn Coers said the students will learn about industry and explore their potential career options when they visit Thurston's Machine Co. and J. Oskam Steel Fabricators.

"These visits will give students a better idea of what

takes place in a large scale shop operation," Coers said in a release.

"Students will have the chance to network with industry professionals, ask questions and learn about the type of machinery used and the skills needed for a career in those fields."

Thurston Machine Co. Ltd. is a fabricating, machining, assembling and testing facility that specializes in the manufacture of equipment for the steel, heavy off-road truck and rail industries around the world.

J. Oskam Steel manufactures and fabricates a variety

of products including stainless steel plate, pipe and tubing of carbon steel plate, structural steel and pipe using a number of custom processes.

Many of the students taking part in the tour of the two companies are part of the school's specialist high

skills majors program.

Coers said District School Board of Niagara offers 19 different specialist high skills majors programs in six different sectors; construction, hospitality and tourism, welding, manufacturing, communications and transportation.



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Please provide a brief description of the nominee's contributions to their family and community as well as a brief description of the nominee's efforts in school. (You may attach your description if more space is required to a maximum of 1,000 words.)

Name of Nominee: _____

Address: _____

City/Town: _____

Postal Code: _____ Telephone #: _____

Age: ☐ 6-12 ☐ 13-18

Category: ☐ Cool to be Kind ☐ Against the odds ☐ Personal Best

NOMINATOR'S CHECKLIST

Before forwarding your nominations, please ensure you've completed the following steps:

Have You

- ☒ Signed the nomination form?
- ☒ Completed all sections of the nomination form?
- ☒ Provided a brief description of the nominee's contributions?

Nominator Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Signature: _____

NOMINATOR'S DESCRIPTION: _____

Mail or drop off completed nomination form to:

THE TRIBUNE 228 East Main St. P.O. Box 278 Welland, ON L3B 5P5

Please note: Complete nomination form, letters of support and any other materials submitted will not be returned

Judging Criteria

Nominees must be a resident of Palham, Port Colborne, Wainfleet or Welland. Their accomplishments must have occurred within the past year. There is a 1,000 word limit for all nominations. No additional material will be accepted. Judges will rate each nominee from 1-10 in the following:

- What has the nominee accomplished during the past year?
- How has this accomplishment impacted on themselves and/or others?
- Why did the nominee set out to do this?

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COOL TO BE KIND Nominees will have performed a service or act of kindness, support or encouragement to a friend, family, neighbour or stranger with no personal gain for themselves. This could be on ongoing or one-time service to an individual, group or community.

PERSONAL BEST Nominees will have achieved a level of performance beyond what might have been expected. This could mean achieving a top performance overall or performance to the best of their ability. Achievements can be in any area including business,

academics, athletics, music, art, writing, drama, etc.

AGAINST THE ODDS Nominees will have shown great strength, ambition and dedication in overcoming a mental, physical, personal, economic or environmental challenge to achieve a goal.

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INPORT NEWS

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to all who made my 80th Birthday such a happy occasion. I enjoyed the visits, cards, gifts and especially the food for the S.P.C.A. To all those who made food, decorated and helped in any way, thanks a million. It was a day to remember.
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■ **GAS PRICES:** Competition Bureau told Port Colborne to do its own investigation, councillor says

Steele is feeling the big pinch at the pumps

ALLAN BENNER
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Fuel in Port Colborne is often a few cents more expensive than in surrounding communities.

But the difference has been very apparent this week.

Last Friday morning, gas was selling for a low 116.6 cents in litre in Welland.

In Port Colborne a litre of gas cost as much as 129.9 cents — a difference of 13.5 cents.

"For me, something's going on here," said Port Colborne Ward 1 councillor, Bill Steele.

"It's seven miles. No one can tell me how gasoline that all comes from the same ground could be that much different.

"I don't believe in gouging," he added.

Steele said Welland isn't the only community with fuel with cheaper gas than Port Colborne. "I was in Caledonia the other day and it was \$1.19. I came through Cayuga and it was \$1.19. I got into Dunnville and it was \$1.19. And I got back to Port Colborne and it was \$1.26," he said.

The discrepancy in prices prompted Steele to bring a motion to city council in late December to ask the Competition Bureau to investigate the issue.

Recently, the city received a response from the bureau. But Steele wasn't satisfied with the federal agency's answer.

"Basically the Competition Bureau has come back and said, 'OK, you guys be the detectives here and then let us know,'" he said. "But to me, that's not our job. We report what we think is a potential

problem."

Steele said he plans to bring another motion regarding gas prices to a city council meeting in the weeks ahead.

Welland MP Malcolm Allen said there needs to be a "watchdog" to review fuel prices.

"Obviously the Competition Bureau has a role to play, but unfortunately they haven't been playing that role," he said, referring to the response Steele said the city received.

Allen said he's noticed Port Colborne's gas prices are normally a few cents higher than in neighbouring communities, too, but 14 cents "seems absolutely out of order."

Steele suggested pressuring the fuel companies through the media on a regular basis as a way to stabilize the price of gas.

"Maybe that's what needs to be done to shake things up," he said.



ALLAN BENNER Staff Photo

There was a 13.5-cent difference Friday morning between the cheapest gas in Welland and the most expensive gas in Port Colborne. Lakeside city Ward 1 Coun. Bill Steele is hoping for help from the Competition Bureau.

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